

October 15, 2014

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Ms. Jocelyn Boyd Chief Clerk and Administrator South Carolina Public Service Commission Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Application of Talk America Services, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate as a Competitive Local Exchange and Long Distance Carrier in Those Areas of the State of South Carolina where Windstream (WIN) Companies Are Currently Authorized and for Approval of the Transfer of Residential Local and Long Distance Customers of the WIN Companies to Talk America Services, LLC

Docket No. 2014-363-C

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed for filing please find an executed Stipulation dated October 14, 2014, between the South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") and Talk America Services, LLC ("TAS") in the above-referenced docket. By copy of this letter and Certificate of Service, all parties of record will receive a copy of this Stipulation via the U. S. Postal Service.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Very truly yours,

McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A.

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Margaret M. Fox

MMF:he Enclosure

cc: Parties of record

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## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2014-363-C

Application of Talk America Services, LLC for a Certificate of	)
Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate as a Competitive	)
Local Exchange and Long Distance Carrier in Those Areas of the	`
State of South Carolina where Windstream (WIN) Companies	)
Are Currently Authorized and for Approval of the Transfer of	)
Residential Local and Long Distance Customers of the WIN	)
Companies to Talk America Services, LLC	

**STIPULATION** 

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition ("SCTC") (see attachment "A" for list of companies) and Talk America Services, LLC ("TAS") hereby enter into the following stipulations. As a consequence of these stipulations and conditions, SCTC does not oppose TAS's Application. SCTC and TAS stipulate and agree as follows:

- 1. SCTC does not oppose the granting of a statewide Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to TAS, provided the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") makes the necessary findings to justify granting of such a certificate, and provided the conditions contained within this stipulation are met.
- 2. TAS stipulates and agrees that any Certificate which may be granted will authorize TAS to provide service only to customers located in non-rural local exchange company ("LEC") service areas of South Carolina, except as provided herein.
- 3. TAS stipulates that it is not asking the Commission to make a finding at this time regarding whether competition is in the public interest for rural areas.
- 4. TAS stipulates and agrees that it will not provide any local service, by its own facilities or otherwise, to any customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, unless

and until TAS provides such rural incumbent LEC and the Commission with written notice of its intent to do so at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the intended service. During such notice period, the rural incumbent LEC will have the opportunity to petition the Commission to exercise all rights afforded it under Federal and State law. Also, TAS acknowledges that the Commission may suspend the intended date for service in rural LEC territory for ninety (90) days while the Commission conducts any proceeding incident to the Petition or upon the Commission's own Motion, provided that the Commission can further suspend the implementation date upon showing of good cause.

- 5. TAS stipulates and agrees that, if TAS gives notice that it intends to serve a customer located in a rural incumbent LEC's service area, and either (a) the Commission receives a Petition from the rural incumbent LEC to exercise its rights under Federal or State law within such 30-day period, or (b) the Commission institutes a proceeding of its own, then TAS will not provide service to any customer located within the service area in question without prior and further Commission approval.
- 6. TAS acknowledges that any right which it may have or acquire to serve a rural telephone company service area in South Carolina is subject to the conditions contained herein, and to any future policies, procedures, and guidelines relevant to such proposed service which the Commission may implement, so long as such policies, procedures, and guidelines do not conflict with Federal or State law.
- 7. The parties stipulate and agree that all rights under Federal and State law are reserved to the rural incumbent LECs and TAS, and this Stipulation in no way suspends or adversely affects such rights, including any exemptions, suspensions, or modifications to which they may be entitled.

- 8. TAS agrees to abide by all State and Federal laws and to participate, to the extent it may be required to do so by the Commission, in the support of universally available telephone service at affordable rates.
- 9. TAS hereby amends its application and its prefiled testimony in this docket to the extent necessary to conform with this Stipulation.

AGREED AND STIPULATED to this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2014.

Talk America Services, LLC:

Burnet R. Maybank, NI

Nexsen Pruet

Post Office Box 2426

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

(803) 540-2098

Attorneys for Applicant Talk America Services, LLC

Services, LLC

South Carolina Telephone Coalition:

M. John Bowen, Jr. Margaret M. Fox

McNair Law Firm, P.A.

Post Office Box 11390

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(803) 799-9800

Attorneys for the South Carolina Telephone Coalition

## South Carolina Telephone Coalition Member Companies For Purposes of Local Service Stipulation

Chesnee Telephone Company

Chester Telephone Company, d/b/a TruVista

Comporium, Inc. (f/k/a Rock Hill Telephone Company)

Farmers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Ft. Mill Telephone Company, d/b/a Comporium

Home Telephone ILEC, LLC d/b/a Home Telecom

Lancaster Telephone Company, d/b/a Comporium

Lockhart Telephone Company, d/b/a TruVista

McClellanville Telephone Company (TDS)

Norway Telephone Company (TDS)

Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

PBT Telecom, d/b/a Comporium

Ridgeway Telephone Company, d/b/a TruVista

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

St. Stephen Telephone Company (TDS)

West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Williston Telephone Company (TDS)

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Heather M. Elder, do hereby certify that I have this date served one (1) copy of the Stipulation on behalf of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition in the above-referenced docket upon the following parties causing said copy to be deposited with the United States Postal Service, first class postage prepaid and properly affixed thereto, and addressed as follows:

Shannon Bowyer Hudson, Esquire Office of Regulatory Staff 1401 Main Street, Suite 900 Columbia, SC, 29201

Burnet R. Maybank III, Esquire Nexsen Pruet, LLC 1230 Main Street, Suite 700 Columbia, SC 29201 Andrew M. Bateman, Esquire Office of Regulatory Staff 1401 Main Street, Suite 900 Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Cesar Caballero, Esquire Windstream Corporation 4001 N. Rodney Parham Road Little Rock, AR, 72212

Heather M. Elder, Legal Assistant

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P. O. Box 11390

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

October 15, 2014

Columbia, South Carolina